

## HIGHLY INTERESTING NEWS FROM TEXAS.

The following is the official account of the attack of the Castle of San Antonio de Bejar, February 23d, of which very exaggerated accounts had before reached us. The Declaration of Independence which we copy below, must excite the sympathies of every American reader. The flag is now raised in the most. They are battling for freedom with a halberd around their necks. Heaven will favor the cause of liberty.

"Port of the Alamo, Bejar, Tex.,  
Tuesday, February 25.

To Major General Samuel Houston,  
Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Texas:

Sir: On the 23d February, the enemy in large force, entered the city of Bejar, which could not be prevented, as I had not sufficient force to occupy both positions. Col. Bates, Adjutant Major of President General Santa Anna, demanded a surrender at discretion, calling us foreign rebels. I answered them with a cannon shot. Upon which the enemy commenced a bombardment from a five inch howitzer, which, together with a heavy cannonade, has been kept up incessantly ever since. I instantly sent express to Colonel Fanning, at Goliad, and to the people of Gonzalez and San Philippe. To-day at ten o'clock, A. M. some two or three hundred crossed the river below, and came under cover of the houses until they arrived within point blank shot, when we opened a heavy discharge of grape and canister upon them, together with a well directed fire from small arms, which forced them to halt and take shelter in the houses about eighty or an hundred yards from our batteries. The action continued to rage for about two hours, when the enemy retreated in confusion, dragging off some of their dead and wounded.

During the action, the enemy kept up a continual bombardment, and discharge of balls, grape and canister. We know from observation that many of the enemy were killed and wounded—while, we on our part, have not lost a man. Two or three of our men, have been slightly scratched by pieces of rock, but not disabled.

I took great pleasure in stating that both officers and men conducted themselves with firmness and bravery. Lieut. Simmons of the cavalry, acting as infantry, and Captains Levy and Pickwick and Blair of the Artillery rendered essential services, and Charles Esquillier and Robert Brown, gallantly stood out and set free to the houses which afforded the enemy shelter, in the face of the enemy's fire. Indeed the whole of the men who were brought into action conducted themselves with such undaunted heroism that it would be injustice to disown them.

The Hon. David Crockett was seen at all points, animating the men to their duty. Our numbers are few, and the enemy still continue to approximate his works to ours. I have every reason to apprehend an attack from his whole force very soon. But I shall hold out to the last extremity; hoping to receive reinforcements in a day or two. Do hasten on aid to me as rapidly as possible—as from the superior numbers of the enemy, it will be impossible to keep them out much longer. If they overpower us—we fall a sacrifice to the slaves of our country, and we hope posterity and our country will do our memory justice. Give me help, oh my country! Victory or death!

U. BLANT TEXAS,  
Lt. Col. Commandant.

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

The unanimous declaration of independence, made by the delegates of the people of Texas in general convention, made at the town of Washington, on the 2d of March, 1836.

When a government less ceased to protect the lives, liberty, and property, of the people from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted, and so far from being a guarantee for the enjoyment of those inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression; when the federal constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded, but that of the army and the priesthood—both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the ever-ready minnows of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants. When long after the spirit of the constitution has departed, moderation, at length, is so far lost by those in power, that even the semblance of freedom is removed, and the framers themselves, of the constitution, disown it, and so far from their petitions and remonstrances being regarded, the agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons—and mercenary armies sent forth, to force a new government upon them at the point of the bayonet.

When, in consequence of such acts of malice and abdication, on the part of the government, monarchy prevails, and civil society is dissolved into its original elements—in such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of self-preservation, the inherent and inalienable right of the people to appeal to first principles, and to take their political affairs into their own hands, in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right towards themselves, and a sacred obligation to their posterity, to abolish such government, and to create another in its stead calculated to rescue them from impending dangers, and to secure their future welfare and happiness.

Nations, as well as individuals are amenable for their acts, to the public opinion of mankind. A statement of a part of our grievances is therefore submitted to an impartial world, in justification of the hazardous, but unavoidable step, now taken, severing our political connexion with the Mexican government, and assuming an independent attitude among the nations of the earth.

The Mexican government by its colonization laws invited and induced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize the wilderness, under the pledged faith of a written confirmation, and they should continue to enjoy the same constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America. In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed—as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the

government by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna,—who having overthrown the constitution of this country, now offers us the cruel alternative either to abandon our own homes, acquired by so many privations, or submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the combined despotism of the sword and the priesthood.

It has sacrificed our welfare to the state of Coahuila, by which our interests have been continually depressed through a jealous and partial course of legislation, carried on at a far distant seat of government, by a hostile majority, in an unknown tongue; and this too, notwithstanding we have petitioned in the humblest manner for the establishment of a separate state government, and have, in accordance with the provisions of a national constitution presented to the general Congress a republican Constitution, which was, without just cause, contemptuously rejected.

It has incarcerated in a dungeon for a long time one of our citizens, for no other cause but a zealous endeavor to procure the acceptance of our constitution and the establishment of a state government.

It has failed and refused to secure on a firm basis, the right of trial by jury: that palladium of civil liberty, and the only safe guarantee for life, liberty, and property, of the citizen.

It has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of means almost boundless, (the public domain) and although it is an axiom in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty or the capacity for self-government.

It has suffered the military commandant situated amongst us to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny; thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizen, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.

It has dissolved by force of arms the state congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the seat of government; thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.

It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to secure and carry them into the interior for trial: in contempt of the civil authority, and in defiance of the laws and the constitution.

It has made piratical attacks upon our commerce, by commissioning foreign desperadoes and authorizing them to seize our vessels, and enslave the property of our citizens to far distant ports for confiscation.

It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our consciences—by the support of a national religion emulated to promote the temporal interests of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God.

It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defence, the rightful property of freemen, and formidable only to tyrannical governments.

It has invaded our country, both by sea and land, with intent to lay waste our territory, and drive us from our homes—and has now a large mercenary army advancing to carry on against us, a war of extermination.

It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless savage, with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenceless frontiers.

It hath been during the whole time of our connexion with it, the contemptible sport and victim of successive military revolts; and hath continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt and tyrannical government.

These and other grievances were partly borne by the people of Texas, until they reached that point at which forbearance ceased to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defense of the national constitution.

We appealed to our Mexican brethren and companion, Mr Benton and Col. Bonham, of S. C., were among the number slain. Gen. Bowie was murdered in his bed sick and helpless. Gen. Cos, on entering the fort ordered the servants of Col. Travis, to point out the body of his master; he did so, when Cos drew his sword and mangled the face and limbs with the malignant feeling of a Cimarrone savage.

The bodies of the slain were thrown into a mass in the centre of the Alamo and burned. The loss of the Mexicans in storming the place was not less than 1000 killed and mortally wounded and as many wounded, making with their loss in the first assault between 2 and 3000 men.

We regret to say that Col. David Crockett, and companion, Mr Benton and Col. Bonham, of S. C., were among the number slain. Gen. Bowie was murdered in his bed sick and helpless. Gen. Cos, on entering the fort ordered the servants of Col. Travis, to point out the body of his master; he did so, when Cos drew his sword and mangled the face and limbs with the malignant feeling of a Cimarrone savage.

The effect of the fall of Bejar throughout Texas was electrical—every man who could use the rifle and was in the condition to take field, marched forthwith to the seat of war. It is believed that not less than 4000 riflemen were on their way to the army when the Cimarrone sailed, and determined to wreak their revenge on the Mexicans.

General Houston had burnt Gonzales, and fallen back on the Collarado, with about 1000 men. Colonel Fanning was in the Fort at Goliad, a very strong position, well supplied with munitions and provisions, with 4 or 500 men.

The general determination of the people of Texas is, to abandon all their occupations and pursuits of peace, and continue in arms until every Mexican east of the Rio del Norte shall be exterminated.

Within a few years, the number of licensed houses in Boston has decreased from 700 to 300.

Extensive preparations are making in several districts of the state of New Jersey for the cultivation of silk. The Monmouth Enquirer mentions that an enterprising individual from New York has purchased a large tract of land in that county, which is his intention to cover immediately with the Chinese mulberry.

Molde papers confirm the intelligence of a large fire at Tuscaloosa on the night of the 13th ult. "All the row on Main street, from John O. Cummings' to the corner, is burnt down, and great exertions were required to save the entire square." The Tuscaloosa Intelligencer estimates the loss at \$10,000 a large portion of which is covered by insurance. Nine buildings were burnt.

The militia of the United States, according to the last returns, comprises 1,300,000 men. The returns are defective. The real number probably does not fall much short of a million and a half.

A bill was reported in the U. S. Senate a few days since, to increase the land force of the United States by the permanent addition of one regiment of artillery and two regiments of infantry. Should this bill become a law, the Army will consist of about 8000 men, officers included.

JOHN FORBES.

WASHINGTON, Texas, March 2.  
ARMY ORDERS.

WAR is now raging on the frontiers. Bejar is besieged by two thousand of the enemy, under the command of General Sizuna. Reinforcements are on their march to unite with the besieging army. By the last report our force in Bejar, was only one hundred and fifty Spanish.

The citizens of Texas must rally to the aid of the army, or perish. Let the citizens of the east march to the combat. The enemy must be driven from our soil, or desolation will accompany their march upon us.

INDEPENDENCE IS DECLARED!

It must be maintained. Immediate action

united with valor alone, can achieve the great work. The services of all forthwith required in the field.

SAMUEL HOUSTON,  
Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

From the New Orleans True American.

## HIGHLY IMPORTANT FROM TEXAS.

## CONGRESS.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2.

Senate. A communication was received from the Post Office department in reply to a resolution (offered by Mr Southard) making inquiry as to the cause of a mistake which was discovered in the accounts of the treasurer of the department, in which the Postmaster General says:

"The cash account of the department, before the first day of July last, is known to be deranged in a high degree. It is believed that many months of labor would be required to ascertain the causes and extent of that derangement. So entirely has the force of the department, employed on accounts since the first of May last, been occupied in the current business, and in examining and adjusting individual accounts of long standing, that no attempt has been made to solve difficulties in the cash account, and no additional light has been cast upon it, except incidentally in a few of its items."

Mr Southard said he did not clearly see what particular disposition he could make of this document. If the Senator from Tennessee would propose any course, he would make no objection to it. There appeared to be an important error, and the treasurer of the department had not been able to make his account with the office clear within \$40,000. I (said Mr S.) am possibly wrong in my views of this subject, as I have generally been in all my conjectures respecting the management of the post office, but I am certainly right in my convictions that there has been a lamentable want of regularity and system, since we have now the declaration of the Postmaster General himself to this effect.

He declares that it has occupied all his time to extricate the affairs of the department from the disorder into which they have been plunged.

Mr Grundy said he did not wish to go into any discussion of the ancient affairs of the department. That there existed a great discrepancy in the accounts, he presumed on one would pretend to dispute. He concurred with the Senator from New Jersey in the opinion that the cause of this discrepancy ought to be ascertained.

Perhaps the best course would be to refer the communication to the committee on the post office and post roads. He moved to refer the communication to that committee.

Agreed to.

House. The bill from the Senate for the establishment of a territorial government in Wisconsin, was taken up. The bill was likely to pass, without question, but Mr May of Illinois, moved an amendment affecting the boundaries of the territory in such a way as to provoke a general discussion among the representatives of the Southern States.

MONDAY, April 4.

House. The House resumed the consideration of the resolutions of the Legislature of Kentucky, in favor of the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands amongst the several States, for the purpose of education and internal improvement.

Mr Hawes, of Kentucky, resumed and concluded his remarks in reply to his colleague, (Mr C. Allan) and went at length into the consideration of the claims of General Harrison and Martin Van Buren for the Presidency.

Mr Hailey denounced the Land Bill as a bribery bill, and said any jury would find this verdict against it, after perusing the testimony.

Mr Wise rose to offer a resolution, the property of which would, he hoped, be generally acknowledged. If the House consented to entertain it, he had no doubt it would be adopted, without delay or discussion. The resolution was then read as follows:

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed with power to send for persons and papers, to inquire into the agency or mode of selecting the Banks of Deposits for the public money; into the contracts with the Treasury Department, by which they are regulated, and into the manner in which, and the persons by whom such contracts are made; and to inquire whether any, and if any, what connexion or relation, official or unofficial, exists or has existed between a certain Reuben M. Whitney and the Treasury Department of the United States, or between him and the banks of Deposits of the public money; and into the extent of his agency generally in keeping and controlling the public money; and into the amount of his compensation, whether the same be paid out of the public Treasury or by the Deposits Banks; and that said committee have leave to report by April 15th.

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